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The role of spiritual experience, gerotranscendence and social engagement on successful aging among incarcerated Filipino elderly: A structural equation model (SEM)

Mary Deo Luigi Mabunay, Les Paul Valdez, Rowena Manzara, Joseph Carl Lunizo and Mary Thereze Mabaquiao
University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

Background: Across the literature, varying definitions of successful aging can be found. As a result, several determinants have been associated with successful aging. However, there is a paucity of literature exploring the relationship between successful aging and factors such as spiritual experience, gerotranscendence and social engagement.

Objective: Thus, this study purports to ascertain the relationship between and among spiritual experience, gerotranscendence, social engagement and successful aging.

Methods: The Daily Spiritual Experience Scale (DSES), Social Engagement Scale (SES), Gerotranscendence Scale Revised (GS-R) and Expectations Regarding Aging (ERA) were fielded to 349 incarcerated elderly to measure spiritual experience, social engagement, gerotranscendence and successful aging respectively. Data was analyzed using Structural Equation Modelling through AMOS 21. The hypothesized model was evaluated using goodness of fit and parsimony indices.

Results: Social engagement ($\beta=0.179$, $p=0.128$) and spiritual experience ($\beta=0.375$, $p=0.262$) contribute to successful aging through the mediating effect of gerotranscendence ($\beta=0.973$, $p=0.718$).

Conclusion: Today more than ever, health care providers in penal institutions are challenged to ensure that incarcerated elderly are socially and spiritually engaged; and have high levels of gerotranscendence.

Biography

Mary Deo Luigi J. Mabunay is a graduating student in University of Santo Tomas, Manila Philippines under Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. She will graduate this June 2016. The study was defended last November 2015 and was orally presented last January 18, 2016 in the "Annual Research Forum: Disseminating Research Output through Oral and Poster Presentation" held in the University of Santo Tomas- College of Nursing. The group won 2nd runner up in the oral presentation

deomabunay03@yahoo.com

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